

What is claimed is:

1. A method for altering the humoral immune response in an animal comprising the step of
  - a) administering a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of: soluble lymphotoxin- $\beta$  receptor, an antibody directed against LT- $\beta$  receptor, and an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the animal is a mammal.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the mammal is a human.
5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent comprises a soluble lymphotoxin- $\beta$  receptor having a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.
6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the soluble lymphotoxin- $\beta$  receptor comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.
7. The method according to claim 2, wherein the LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT- $\beta$  receptor.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. The composition according to claim 38, wherein the LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of a soluble lymphotoxin- $\beta$  receptor, an antibody directed against LT- $\beta$  receptor, and an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

19. A method for inhibiting LT- $\beta$ -R signaling without inhibiting TNF-R signaling comprising the step of administering to a subject an effective amount of a LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of a soluble lymphotoxin- $\beta$  receptor, an antibody directed against LT- $\beta$  receptor, and an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

21. The method according to claim 19, wherein the subject comprises one or more cells from a mammal.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the mammal is a human.

23. The method according to claim 19, wherein the LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent comprises a soluble lymphotoxin- $\beta$  receptor having a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.

24. The method according to claim 23, wherein the soluble lymphotoxin- $\beta$  receptor further comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

25. The method according to claim 19, wherein the LT- $\beta$ -R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT- $\beta$  receptor.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein said antibody is anti-human LT- $\beta$ -R mAb BDA8.

[illegible]

[illegible]

43. The method of claim 36 further comprising the co-administration of an additional anti-viral agent.

